



U.S. Immigration
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News Release

WILL COUNTY MAN FOUND GUILTY ON MULTIPLE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Placed hidden cameras in his home to secretly videotape male teenager in his home

JOLIET, Ill. — A Crest Hill man was found guilty yesterday on multiple counts of child pornography and aggravated criminal sexual abuse for secretly placing video cameras in his home to videotape a male teenager. This verdict resulted from a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Crest Hill Police Department.

Jack Collins, 43, of the 2400 block of Waterford Dr., was found guilty by Judge Richard C. Schoenstedt in the Will County Courthouse on three counts of producing and arranging child pornography, a Class 1 felony which is a mandatory prison sentence; one count of unauthorized videotaping, a Class 1 felony; and one count of aggravated criminal sexual abuse, a Class 2 felony. Collins also pleaded guilty in February to 11 counts of possessing child pornography, a Class 3 felony. The three counts of producing child pornography are a mandatory prison Class 1 felony, with a minimum four years in prison and a maximum of 15 years. The sentencing options for the remaining counts are three to seven years in prison on the Class 2 Felony, and two to five years in prison on the Class 3 felony. The sentencing date for all counts has not yet been scheduled.

Collins is the latest individual to be caught up in a global ICE child pornography investigation that has targeted an Internet-billing company based in Minsk, Belarus, and its affiliated entities in the United States. In January 2004, the Belarus firm was charged with money laundering as well as providing credit card billing services for 50 child pornography websites worldwide, and operating child porn websites on its own. ICE special agents had targeted Collins for investigation in early December 2003 after learning that he had purchased child porn subscriptions from these sites.

A week later, on Dec. 11, 2003, the Crest Hill Police received a call from a male teenage resident of Collins' home reported discovering a suspicious camera installed in his bedroom wall. A state search warrant was obtained from the Will County States Attorney's office. Officers from the Crest Hill Police and ICE executed the search warrant at the residence. Authorities found cameras installed in the male teenage resident's bedroom and bathroom that Collins had hooked up to two video recorders. The equipment was seized, along with a collection of videotapes and CDs. Collins was immediately arrested.

This global Internet child pornography investigation is part of ICE's Operation Predator, a nationwide initiative to safeguard children against Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, and human traffickers. Since its launch in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,500 individuals nationwide, including more than 300 in Illinois.

"This case is particularly disturbing because this man was secretly taping pornographic images of an innocent teenage resident living under his roof," said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge for ICE Investigations in Chicago. "ICE is using all of its law enforcement tools and authorities to target those who prey on and sexually exploit children."

Will County First Assistant State's Attorney Greg Debord successfully prosecuted this case.

Jim Glasgow, Will County State's Attorney, thanked ICE saying, "This is the second international child pornography ring that we have successfully prosecuted in partnership with ICE." Glasgow continued, "We are both members of Lisa Madigan's Internet Child Exploitation Task Force, and I look forward to continuing our aggressive campaign to stop child predators and pornographers dead in their tracks. I want to applaud Greg DeBord for his tireless prosecution which continues our successful effort to spare no expense in safeguarding the children of Will County."

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators, and any suspicious activity, through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may also be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.